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NSC BRILLING

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October 1957 25)

WORLD REACTION TO SOVIET MARTE SATELLITE

i. High-riding Khrushchev has promptly moved to milk the maximum political advantage out of the Soviet earth satellite achievement.

He appears confident that the ICBM test, the successful laubching of the earth satellite, and the announcement of a test of a "hydrogen device of a new design," will greatly strengthen the USSR's politico-strategic position vis-s-vis the Vest and will produce a deep impact on neutralist opinion.

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- A. Khrushchev declared on 8 October that the matellite and longrange rockets mean that fighter and bomber aircraft "can be put into museums." He said that "rockets are terrible, pitiless weapons," and pointedly advised "those responsible for the fate of peoples" to "think seriously about these things."
- B. The Soviet leader also warmed the US and its friends in the Middle East not to intervone in Syria. Noting that the Turks had denuded their frontiers with the USSR by concentrating forces against Syria, he suggested that "they should have a good think about this."
- II. Soviet propagands media have concentrated on claiming a "brilliant victory" for Soviet ecience—one which demonstrates the superiority of the Socialist system. Soviet comment has followed the theme of the Forkelese 2003/02/2/4. CIA Rep (\$7806964600500206006 labor of the people of the new socialist applicate turn even the most daring of man's dreams into a reality.

- A. Soviet scientist, P. L. Espites, said the USER was able to launch the estellite first because the Soviet system makes it "egaier to organize, inspire and direct" teams of scientists.
- B. Moncow radio on 7 October contracted "estern #/forts to use scientific achievements "for the simulation" with Soviet goal of "speeding up at a gigantic pace the progress of civilization."
- III. Soviet scientific schievements will probably boost Khrushchev's domestic popularity. They will at least temporarily strengthen his position in dealing with any opposition which may remain within the higher echelons of the Seviet party.
 - A. In the foreign policy field, these successes will strengthen Honcow's hand in expanding Soviet influence in the Middle Fast and Afro-Asia, and in selling "neutralism."
 - B. Pravds on 7 Outober predicted that the Seviet success vill force the US to revemp some of its foreign policies and stated that US "ruling circles" must face up to three questions: necessity of peaceful coexistence, stopping the armsments race, and ending the cold war.
- IV. Chinese Communist reaction, unlike the initial Soviet comment, was quick to declare that US claims to military supremacy are now empty and that "US hopes for world begomony have been shattered."
 - A. All Satellites are giving Soviet announcements maximum play.

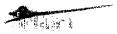
 Enst German Party boss Walter Wibricht declared that the

 satellite "is witness to the further transformation of the

 belance of power in the world in favor of the USSR, the

 Socialist camp, and the countries in the wide some of peace."

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- V. In Western Europe there were five major lines of comment:
 - A. belief that the Western countries through joint efforts could surpass Soviet scientific achievements:
 - 1. The London Daily Telegraph suggested that the Soviet success was due to an advantage inherent in a dictatorship and a closed economy. "It is a question of priorities and the power to enforce them."
 - B. recognition that launching of satellite is a momentous event and a great Seviet achievement;
 - C. surprise and disappointment that USSR best the US in this field;
 - D. conclusion that the Soviets are sheed of the PS scientifically and that the West has suffered a political setback;
 - E. belief that this achievement has great military implications and that it is not in safe hands.
- VI. Comment in Asia and Africa stresses blow to WS prestige.
 - A. Leftist papers in Egypt praised the Soviet achievement and ridiculed American "anxiety" and "penic." Here conservative papers predicted an acceleration in great power arms race and concluded that other nations should be even more hesitant to align themselves with either the West or the USSR.
 - B. Israeli press sav satellite as major prestige victory for the SSER among those "underdeveloped peoples" (the Araba) which tend to set their course according to demonstrations of strength by the great powers.
 - c. Indian prime minister Nehru, speaking in Japan, atressed that
 new scientific developments have antiquated present-day
 politics and foreign policies and rendered obsolete such
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- D. A leading Japanese military commentator (Sabiero Haynchi) stated that the satellite demonstrates the superiority of Soviet technology.
- X. Most striking reaction so far has come from Yehran, where US Embassy reports that:

"Most Iran government officials...have long been convinced of US...maperiority over "barbarons" Soviete. Both officials and public...ere beginning suspect Soviet at least equal US or perhaps superior in long run, this westens Iranian will to recist Soviets...efficials have tended show embarrassment when subject of satellite is brought up, apparently feeling that satellite represents such blow to US prestige that to discuss it would be impolite."